

M. WITTE HEADS RUSSIAN MISSION

Czar Nicholas Signs His Appointment as Chief Peace Plenipotentiary.

WAS SIGNED AFTER MIDNIGHT.

He May be Regarded as the Leading Liberal Statesman of the Empire.

A FUNNY THING ABOUT MURAVIEFF

It is Said He Declined Because He Was Not Allowed Enough Money to Cover His Expenses.

St. Petersburg, July 13, 12:55 p. m.—Emperor Nicholas has signed the appointment of M. Witte, president of the committee of ministers, to be chief plenipotentiary representing the Russian government in the peace negotiations to be conducted next month in the United States. The appointment, which was signed after midnight, clothes M. Witte with plenary powers. Official notification of the designation of M. Witte to head the mission was forwarded to Washington this morning. M. Witte will take passage on the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, which sails from Cherbourg July 26.

Sergei Witte, the Russian plenipotentiary, may be regarded as the leading liberal statesman of Russia. For the last 13 years he has been one of the strongest personalities in the Russian bureaucracy, although his political fortunes suffered a set-back when he was compelled to resign the portfolio of minister of finance in August, 1903, and again when, after being appointed president of the council of ministers in the same month, his office gradually lost its importance until rumors of his intention to resign and go abroad had been persistently circulated.

Witte is about 55 years old, and has steadily worked his way up from the position of an underpaid railroad clerk who occasionally acted as porter to one of the leading statesmen of Russia, in spite of the fact that his enemies are numerous and include some of the most powerful men in Russia. A man of large stature, big boned and muscular, standing over six feet high, Witte has the reputation of being harsh to his subordinates, but his honesty and ability have never been doubted, and he has created a name for himself as a man of integrity.

M. Witte is thoroughly familiar with the far eastern question in all its ramifications. He understands the Japanese mind and fully realized before the war that an aggressive policy being pursued under the lead of Czar Nicholas and M. Witte, president of the council of ministers, and the Yakuza, the Japanese secret police, would drive Japan to take up the sword. At one time Witte talked over the situation with the Marquis Ito, president of the Japanese empire, and the one of the leading statesmen of Japan. Practically it was Witte's disapproval of Russia's far eastern policy and the creation of a viceroyalty in the Far East which caused his downfall as minister of finance.

WHY MURAVIEFF DECLINED.

Paris, July 13.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Parisian press states that the declaration of M. Muravieff to head the Russian peace mission was based partly on the state of his health and partly on the fact that he was allowed for his services during the period of his sojourn in America was only 15,000 roubles, which amount he considered insufficient owing to the great cost of living in the United States.

M. Witte twice refused to become the successor of Muravieff on the mission on the ground that he did not wish to be a mere figurehead in the transaction to the Russian emperor of the peace terms offered by Japan. His rejection therefore cannot be taken to mean that the emperor has yielded to his insistence that the real powers should be reserved to the Russian plenipotentiary upon Russia's principal representative on the peace mission.

PRESIDENT IS ADVISED.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., July 13.—President Roosevelt received from the Associated Press the first definite news of the declaration of M. Muravieff to act as the plenipotentiary for Russia in the conference and of the designation by the Russian emperor of M. Witte as the leading Russian envoy. Official notification of M. Witte's appointment had not reached the president from St. Petersburg, although it may come at any time.

Unofficially the designation of M. Witte is regarded as most auspicious. It is believed that the appointment is an assurance that peace in the far east is now in sight.

TO STUDY INEBRITY.

Society for that Purpose Elects Officers.

Portland, Or., July 13.—The society for the study and cure of inebriety, an affiliated body to that of the American Medical Association, at its concluding session, elected the following officers:

Honorary president, H. D. Dillard, Syracuse, N. Y.; honorary vice president, H. O. Carey, Boston; president, W. S. Hall, Chicago; vice president, L. D. Mason, Brooklyn; T. M. Nichols, New York City; E. Dewitt Reese, Portland, N. Y.; John Madden, secretary; T. D. Crothers, Hartford, Conn.; corresponding secretary, C. S. Stewart, Battle Creek, Mich.; treasurer, J. W. Webster, Chicago, Ill.; executive committee, L. D. Mason, T. A. Mc-Nicholl, A. E. Ellsworth, T. D. Crothers.

KING RICHARD THIRD.

Perfect Copy of Shakespeare's Tragedy Sold for \$8,750.

New York, July 13.—A perfect copy of the fourth quarto edition of Shakespeare's "Tragedy of King Richard the Third" has been sold at Sotheby's for

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